

**In Delaware, a larger percentage
of fatal crashes result from
errors by motorcyclists
than vehicle drivers.**

With the rising popularity of motorcycle riding has come an unfortunate rise in motorcycle crashes and deaths nationwide and locally. While vehicle drivers need to be on the lookout for motorcycles at all times, as a rider you have a role to play too. No matter your age or the type of bike you ride, it's up to you to ride smart—protect yourself so you can enjoy the sport to its fullest!

Most common causes:

Speeding

Drinking

Following too closely

Stunt riding



Delaware Office of Highway Safety

P.O. Box 1321

Dover, DE 19903-1321



Delaware Department
of Transportation

REMEMBER, RIDE SAFE. RIDE SMART.

Control Your Destiny



Ride Safe. Ride Smart.

Motorcycle Safety Tips

On the Road

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RIDE SMART?

Before You Hit the Road

Really get to know your bike and how it handles. Practice handling it under different conditions and work on your riding technique. If you're new to the sport, get formal training. However, even seasoned riders can benefit from refresher courses. Check out the Delaware DMV website, at www.dmv.gov, or your local motorcycle shop for training options. You can never be too prepared for what you may encounter out on the road.

Remember, practice makes perfect.

Slow It Down

Speeding is the primary cause or a contributing factor in most of Delaware's fatal motorcycle crashes. Nearly half of the operators killed had prior speeding tickets on their driving records. So when it's time to hit the open road, make sure you do it while following the posted speed limits. Speed makes it more difficult to control your bike in turns or recover it when you start to crash.

Don't Drink and Ride

More than a quarter of fatal motorcycle crashes in Delaware involved alcohol. Several of these impaired bikers had prior DUIs. Whether you're in your personal vehicle or on your bike, drinking alcohol impairs your judgment, coordination and reaction time. Just don't do it!

Suit Up for Safety

With a motorcycle, the only thing between you and the road is your protective gear. So it's important that you dress for safety:

- ⦿ Always wear a motorcycle helmet. Make sure it fits properly and always buckle the chinstrap.
- ⦿ Wear long sleeves and pants made of leather or other protective material.
- ⦿ Always wear eye protection and gloves to shield against rocks and glass that might fly up off the road.
- ⦿ Wear over-the-ankle boots. Never ride in flip-flops.
- ⦿ If riding at night, be sure you can be seen by wearing reflective material.

A SMART RIDER IS A SAFE RIDER.

Share the Road

Whether on your bike or in your personal vehicle, remember to share the road with others. When operating your bike, keep a safe distance from other vehicles. Give yourself space and time to respond to others. Be aware of the blind spots cars and trucks have. Use proper lane positioning and don't weave between lanes. And do not ride on the shoulder or pass illegally. When in your own vehicle, remember to keep an eye out for motorcycles and treat them as you would want to be treated.

Be Alert

Know how to handle road hazards that can lead to a crash if not detected in time.

Watch out for:

Loose sand, gravel and debris
Slippery and wet surfaces
Uneven and textured surfaces

